THE THING

Ideas of fact and fancy, from a hybridizer's note-book, in part originated or supported by colleagues.
- Harry R. Goulding

Planted large batch of old hibiscus seed, some over nine years old. Oldest to sprout - 32 months.

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Just as cool nights effect bloom, hot days with high humidity, in excess of 90%, shorten the growth period of hibiscus buds, resulting in more profuse but smaller flowers of show quality.

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Is a narrow mind associated with a big mouth?

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Seedlings with small size bloom, but not definitely complete miniatures, might be grafted on miniature wood such as DAINTY. Plant union likely more compatible with possible influence toward small bloom.

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Large leaves are strongly indicative of larger flowers. This is a good rule of thumb in selecting your parent plants where large bloom is your desire. In reverse, most miniatures are small all around: leaves, calyx, bush, etc. Large leaves come from H. waimeaii, the original daddy of most Hawaiian hybrids. (Gast).

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Many otherwise fine cultivars are "bud-droppers" in hot weather. Records indicate this trait is not dominant and is not transmitted to immediate progeny.

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Need assistance from the moon? Then graft between the new moon and the first quarter.

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Old-time hybridizers (the Popes, Henry K. Nakasone, et al.) passed on information to plant hibiscus seed one-half inch deep - an accepted practice. Suggest both miniature, and all seed over a few weeks old (since virility decreases with age) should be scantily covered when planting. This should increase the percentage of seed that sprout.

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Plan to feed your understock with soluable fertilizer about one week before grafting. Growth of scion will be accelerated.

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Find the chemical weed killer PARAQUAT-CL which affects only green plant tissue, a very valuable aid to control both grasses and broad-leaved weeds in seedling beds and around established plants. Brown stems of plants are not affected, and no damage to the soil. This is the lazy man's dream. Throw away your hoe.

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Large seed are not more virile than small seed, but are indicative of size of bloom. Crosses resulting in small seed may be discarded where large bloom is imperative to your plans.

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Plastic mailing-tubes, available at office supply stores, make dandy containers in which to ship scion wood. May be used repeatedly. (Welenc)

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